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T H E

# C R I S I S.

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N U M B E R XLIX. *To be continued Weekly.*

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SATURDAY, DECE. 23, 1775. [Price Two Pence Half-penny]

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When Kings the Sword of Justice first lay down,  
They are no Kings, tho' they possess a CROWN.  
Titles are *Shadows*, Crowns are *empty Things*;  
The GOOD of Subjects is the End of Kings :---  
To *guide* in WAR, and to *protect* in PEACE,  
Where Tyrants once commence, the Kings do cease :  
For Arbitrary Power's so strange a Thing,  
It MAKES the TYRANT, and UN-makes the King.

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THE last news from *America* is of the most shocking and alarming nature ; but nothing can either convince the judgments, or divert the intentions of the *infernal* Ministers of George the Third. They have formed in conjunction with the BLOODY-minded COWARD and TYRANT their Master, a FACTION and CONSPIRACY against the Laws and Liberties, the Lives and Properties of the PEOPLE in every part of the wide extended Empire of Britain.

Their



THEIR plan is ROBBERY and MURDER ; and altho' they are fighting against the natural Rights of Mankind, and all the Laws of God, Justice and Humanity, yet an obstinate perseverance (which none but Demons possess) marks their steps ; altho' their measures are reprobated by every honest man in England, and the TYRANT's Forces worsted in every Battle with the brave and virtuous *Americans*, (who to their immortal honour are now struggling in the great cause of freedom and their Country) yet all this cannot make those Plunderers and Butchers desist from their RAPINE and VIOLENCE.

THE last advices which arrived here a few days since from *America*, brought to the infinite satisfaction of all GOOD Men, a circumstantial and particular account of the *Americans* being in possession of FORT CHAMBLEE, and FORT St. JOHN's in the Province of *Canada*, with little loss or bloodshed ; that General Carleton had been defeated by the Provincials, and was very near being taken Prisoner of War. The Ministry, however, strictly adhering to their original plan of delusion and villainy, thought fit to suppress the Publication of these Accounts in the last *Gazette*, published by AUTHORITY, a *Gazette* known at this time, only for the most notorious LIES, and the most shameful Misrepresentations ; in short, every circumstance relative to the present royal and ministerial CIVIL WAR in *America*, which most sensibly and fatally affects the people of England, has either not appeared in that paper, or been scandalously MIS-represented and falsified by ministerial artifice and King-craft. How long the people here will suffer themselves to be thus imposed upon, and their money to be unjustly wrested from them to carry on a cruel and unprovoked War against their Fellow Subjects, Time only can determine : But it is to be hoped for the honour of the Nation and humanity, their present TAME ACQUIESCENCE will not be of long continuance ; and that they will soon convince both the Sovereign and his Ministers, that they are determined not to be the infamous SUPPORTERS of TYRANNY, nor the QUIET Spectators of the Ruin and Butchery of their Friends and Countrymen, in whose Destruction must be involved in their OWN : That rather than see the Constitution overturned, their Liberties annihilated, their Property unlawfully and wantonly torn from them by a rapacious King, and their Posterity enslaved ; they are resolved to make the Throne of Tyranny shake, and like their Forefathers prove to the World that no Prince shall tyrannize over them, and sacrifice the dear bought Rights of Englishmen with IMPUNITY.

The



The Orders lately sent by the Ministers of the grand MASTER BUTCHER at *St. James's* to DESTROY ALL THE TOWNS on the Coast of *America*, and to leave the innocent and defenceless Inhabitants, infirm Men, Women, and Children, exposed to the inclemency of the Weather, WITHOUT SHELTER, and all the horrors of Poverty and Want, is such an Exercise of wanton Cruelty, as cannot be paralleled in the History of the most SAVAGE Nations upon Earth; and will (if any thing possibly can) surely rouse the Indignation and Resentment, the noble Spirit, and generous Feelings of Britons, against the Authors of such till NOW unheard of Barbarities, altho' the Head of the First MONSTER in this inhuman Business should be encircled with a DIADEM.

Every good Man must condemn these Measures, and the hellish Spirit of the Conspirators, it being evident to the World, that their whole Aim, and only Design is PLUNDER and PUBLIC RUIN, should they be suffered to proceed further, the whole Empire must be thrown into Convulsions, and the People submit to Slavery, OR, all the dreadful Calamities of intestine War; nay, (dreadful to behold!) we shall see, like the brave Americans, our Houses ransacked, our Villages plundered, our finest Cities encompassed with Foreign Armies, and our fruitful Fields clothed with Desolation; and still more horrid to relate, we must be shocked with the more frightful Images, of Garments rolled in Blood; and of a Russian's Blade REAKING from a BROTHER's Heart! What amends can the present Tyrant and his Ministers make for the Property they have already plundered in America, for an Immense Commerce ruined or lost, for Cities laid in Ashes, for contending Armies, Bloodshed, Slaughter, and Battles; for general Desolation, innumerable Murders, and universal Destruction; much less for the Evils just before mentioned, which must happen in the BOWELS of THIS COUNTRY, should the People of England remain as they now do, supinely negligent of their own PRESERVATION, and not RESIST their Oppressors, the common Enemies of Mankind.

To the black Catalogue of Crimes and mischiefs they have committed, the present merciful, pious Tyrant and his Ministers, are about to make a glorious Addition, that of PROHIBITING all Trade and Intercourse from every Part of the World with North America. This Bill is now passing through the British Senate, a Senate which like that in the Time of *Henry the VI.* has deservedly obtained the Appellation of the *Parliamentum Diabolicum*, or the Devilish Parliament.

This



This Method of declaring War on the Americans, instead of answering the Ends which the Tyrants designed, has a direct Tendency to Effect, and will forever separate the two Capital Parts of the Empire. Nothing can certainly be more ridiculous than to behold a Nation making a Separation of its Parts by LAW, with a View of re-uniting them by a TREATY. The Clauses of this wicked, absurd, and impolitic Bill, consign ALL to Punishment, whether Friends or Enemies to Government.--- Yet the Preamble only declares, that MANY are Guilty. The English on both Sides of the Ocean are now taught by ACT of PARLIAMENT to look on themselves as separate Nations; Nations susceptible of general Hostility, and proper Parties for mutual Declarations of War, and Treaties of Peace. The Tyrant and his Ministers, are by THIS ACT, preparing the Minds of the Americans for that Independence, which they have been falsely charged with affecting, whilst they are drove to it, by repeated Injuries.

The Framers of the Bill, not satisfied with making predatory War upon the Trade of the Colonies, thought it necessary to stimulate particular avarice and rapacity to an activity in such service, by rendering captures of North American Vessels, and Goods, the Property of the CAPTORS. This must be considered (for the *first* Time) as holding out the Spoil of their Fellow Citizens, for the Reward of ALACRITY in Civil War, as a source of the most dangerous Corruption that can be conceived, in the first instance to our Navy, and in its consequences to the Army. A number of bold, desperate, enterprizing men trained to the profession of Arms are naturally lovers of War; and when they have once tasted of emoluments from domestic Spoils they will no longer look on the Commerce of England as an Object of PROTECTION, but of PLUNDER. They will see the prosperous State of peaceful domestic industry, not with Pleasure, but with Envy. The greatest Republic, of which History gives us any Knowledge, was subverted by this Licence of DOMESTIC PLUNDER. The Navy of England, (curse on the Traitors) want no such unnatural and impious Encouragement, towards the performance of any Duty which their known Public Spirit, and as yet uncorrupted Honour, may make it necessary to perform. And it is a Matter of the most serious concern to the Nation that a service always looked upon (and hitherto most justly) not only without fear or jealousy, but with the greatest Affection in every Part of the Empire, should be unnecessarily exposed to the lasting ODIUM which must attend those who are enriched from the SPOILS of Citizens, amongst



amongst whom they may be obliged to spend their Lives, and form their Connections.

This Bill equally unjust and villainous in every Part, by anticipating the legal Judgment of the Offences of those whose Goods are forfeited, overturns one of the most Fundamental Parts of the BILL of RIGHTS, which declares, "that all Grants of Fines and Forfeitures of particular Persons BEFORE CONVICTION, are ILLEGAL and VOID."----This Provision was expressly made, lest rapacious Ministers seeking confiscation; or rapacious Soldiers allured by the Lust of Plunder, should be induced to enrich themselves out of the Public Disorders.

The whole scheme of this nefarious Bill, and predatory War for private Lucre, is put under the direction of certain COMMISSIONERS, Men not even known by Name; who are to have a Power to give such continuance to the Ravages Authorized, by this Bill as their Blood-thirsty Wills shall suggest; to Pardon or except from Pardon, any number or description of Persons, and with such Exceptions as THEY shall see fit, without any other Rule than their own private Opinion. Fancy Caprice, Favour, or Resentment; This Power is not only unjustifiable and unconstitutional, but the greatest that can be given to any Tyrants, and ought not to be in the Hands of any Man or set of Men.

The farther we examine this Bill the more infamous and diabolical it appears, that Clause of it, which by a Refinement in Tyranny, and in a Sentence worse than Death, obliges the unhappy Men who shall be made Captives in this predatory War, to bear Arms against their Families, Kindred, Friends, and Country; and after being plundered themselves, to become Accomplices in plundering their Brethren. By this Clause, which none but DEVILS could suggest, not only common Seamen, but Masters of Vessels, are, without regard to Age, Circumstances, or Condition, to be ignominiously turned before the Mast, and subjected to the austere Discipline of the Boatswain. Persons, in that subordinate Station, not being animated with the liberal and ingenuous Spirit which distinguishes our Officers in the Navy, and taught to consider these *forced Volunteers* as REBELS, will be but too apt to aggravate the Miseries of Captivity by INSULT and OUTRAGE. The Prisoners among the Comrades they are obliged to live and serve with, may probably be often forced to behold the Spoils of their honest Industry, and the natural Support of their sober Families, squandered in riot and profligate Debauchery  
before

before their Faces. This every Man must look upon as the last Degree of Wretchedness and Indignity, to which human Nature can be subjected. These Cruelties, (O! Shame to Britain) unknown to the most Savage Nations are to be practised, (if they can stoop to the hateful Task) by Englishmen on Englishmen. Such Examples of Barbarity were never known or heard of, except among Pirates. the Out-Laws and Enemies of human Society.

N. B. CASCA's LETTER is received, and shall be made the Subject of the next Number.---The AUTHORS of the CRISIS owe him many Obligations, for his spirited and sensible Essays in Support of Civil and Religious Liberty. They have always given particular Directions to their Printer to set every Word scored for *Italic*, in that Character, and to be, in the Composition of his Epistles, exceedingly careful---but *Ex nihilo nihil fit*.

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Printed and published for the Authors, by T. W. SHAW, in Fleet-street, opposite Anderton's Coffee House, where Letters to the Publisher will be thankfully received.